

IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Advisory Board Meeting

Coastal Grant Input Session

Wednesday June 19, 2013 – 6:30 PM CDT

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission - NIRPC
6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46307

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions – request everyone sign the attendance sheet

Attendees:

Voting Board Members: Christopher Meyers (Crown Point Building and Zoning Admin), Geof Benson (Beverly Shores Town Council), Dan Plath (NISOURCE), Ray Joseph (Porter County Parks), Bob Daum (NPS), Tiffany Tolbert (Indiana Landmarks), Christine Livingston (Porter County Convention Recreation Visitor Council), Kristopher Krouse (Shirley Heinze Land Trust), Kathy Sipple (Citizen at Large Porter County)

Non-Voting Members: Ashley Snyder (Lamp/RAP Coordinator), Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Elizabeth McCloskey (USFWS), Young Choi (Purdue Calumet), **LMCP Staff:** Mike Molnar, Maggie Byrne, Breana Sowers, Dorreen Carey, Sergio Mendoza, Derek Nimetz

Board Members Not Present: Anthony Copeland (Lake County Local Chamber of Commerce), Craig Phillips (Local Planner LaPorte County), Frank Seilheimer (City of Michigan City), Nicole Barker (Save the Dunes), Leslie Dorworth (IL IN Sea Grant); Bill Moran (USDA NRCS), Joel Schmidt (USACE)

Interested Public: John Sabo (Lake County Surveyors), Susan MiHalo (TNC), Gina Darnell (NWIPA), Cheryl Evans (Citizen), Bob Fulton (Hobart Stormwater District), David Wright (GPTC), Maddie Grimm (Taltree)

Chair McCloskey Convened the meeting with Pledge of Allegiance at 6:35 PM CDT. Introductions were made and statement of meeting purpose reiterated: Priority Setting for 2014 Grant Cycle.

- **Old Business** – Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2013 CAB Meeting: Geof Benson, Porter County Board Member, approves the minutes. Christopher Meyers, Lake County Board Member, seconds the motion. Minutes are then approved by Liz McCloskey, Chair.
- **New Business – Committee Reports**

***Outreach** – Mike Molnar relays reminder of June Coastal Awareness Month Activities, Calendar of Events and where posters are located.

***TAPP** – Sergio Mendoza explains the purpose of the NOAA Coastal Services Center and the free workshops that are available to NWI stakeholders. Mendoza created a survey for the LMCP website inquiring about interest in said workshops. The popular choices will possibly be held in the future for stakeholders to attend.

***CELCP** – Mike Molnar: NOAA's Presidential Budget request for the next FY is \$3 million. The maximum grant amount is reduced to \$1 M per project from \$3M. There will be open competition for this funding later in the year. Molnar encourages attendees to suggest land acquisition or project ideas for LMCP to enter into the competitive running.

***Grants** – Committee has not met again since the last CAB meeting.

***Public Input Preparation**

Maggie Byrne, Grants Specialist, begins by providing a PowerPoint led discussion on the entire Grants Process. She shows the areas covered by LMCP, describes eligibility, funding criteria, the 1:1 match rate, description of grant categories, examples of past grant projects, the 'rules' provided through NOAA, the importance of partnerships, proposal and grant timelines, expected time structure, reviews, and different forms used in the grant process. Her full presentation can be viewed in the attached PDF.

***Public Input Voting Process**

Mike Molnar describes the roving flip-chart exercise and the 6 Different Categories under which topics will be written. These are: **Land Acquisition, Low-Cost Construction, Planning/Coordination/ Management, Education/Outreach, Applied Research, and Emerging Issues.** Participants are asked to add their own top priorities for each topic – staff remains present for additional clarification and help. This segment is given 25 minutes to finish. While staff compiles the ideas, stakeholders take a hike around the NIRPC campus. After all project topics have been condensed, voting CAB members are given 6 colored adhesive tabs to place next to the topic of their highest priority. The ideas with the greatest number of tabs are then discussed further and designated as the Top Priorities of the 2014 Grant Cycle.

The following is the breakout of the Priorities:

2014 LMCP Grant Priorities

**As determined by a public process during a LMCP Coastal Advisory Board meeting at the NIRPC Offices
on Wednesday, June 19, 2013**

306A Low Cost Construction

- **Natural area restoration (3)**
 - Community Rain Gardens / Bioswale (2)
 - Coastal community entryway signage, marker restoration (2)
 - Creation of livable centers / public spaces in central business districts (1)

- Stream restoration on Deep River, Lake George to include Blueway access (1)
- Municipal EAB mitigation tree planting
- Construction of ADA accessible lake and river access sites
- Rehabilitation of historic sites (buildings) as public spaces

306A Land Acquisition

- Riparian properties along Little Calumet River East Branch (4)
- Land for wetland restoration (3)
- Dunes threatened by development, adjacent to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (1)
- Areas to improve water quality within watershed (1)
- Additions to previously acquired lands
- High quality headwaters and forest
- Hobart additions to Hobart Marsh program

306 Planning / Coordination / Management

- Green Alley Greenway Handbook (2) – as decided by CAB Planning Committee
- Stormwater ordinance development (2)
- Blueway implementation planning (2)
- Resiliency planning (climate change) (2)
- Watershed plan implementation management (1)
- Land assembly for siltation pollution prevention plan
- Water control plan for siltation reduction and water quality enhancement
- Coastal region trail plan
- Natural resources sub plan
- Stormwater management plan
- Urban forestry planning

306 Education / Outreach

- Mighty Acorns (3)
- Historic, cultural, and natural resources regional map (companion to NIRPC bike map) (3)

- Great Lakes Initiative for Stewardship Education Network (GLISTEN) (2)
- Environmental education and outreach using social media (1)
- Mobile outreach for schools
- Get Outdoors Day
- Bank stabilization and invasive plant control education for property owners along Deep River and Lake George in Hobart
- Bird migration counting along lakeshore, including education
- Education program emphasizing land history of Lake Michigan watershed
- Outreach to public on how to control invasive plants

306 Applied Research

- Land acquisition and restoration priorities for climate resilience (4)
- Documenting the biodiversity of the coastal region for education, outreach, and planning purposes (3)
- Testing wetland contamination levels with reduced air pollution (2)
- Carbon sequestration of restored prairies and wetlands
- Map and date sand mined areas and create GIS layer

Emerging Issues

- Early detection and rapid response for invasive species (6)
- Stormwater management (2)
- Emerald Ash Borer planning for riparian corridors and flood plain forests (1)
- Mapping coastal septic areas
- User conflicts among river users
- Climate change
- Implementation of sustainable handbook (NIRPC)
- Develop MOU protocols for protected lands within regulated drains

Meeting Adjourned – 8:35 PM CDT